

## UPWARD CALL

*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but this is my one aim: to forget everything that's behind, and to strain every nerve to go after what lies ahead. I press on toward the finish line, where the prize waiting for me is the upward call of God*  
**IN KING JESUS.**

(Philippians 3:13-14)

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### ***Preeminence of King Jesus***

**That in all things He might have the preeminence.** (Colossians 1:18b ASV)

I have written much about the shaking that is going on in the world today and what it signifies in relation to God's purpose and plan. We are living in days of shaking that, I believe, will ebb and flow like the ocean's tide until, finally, the end of our present age arrives as fixed by our Father's authority. As I have shared many times, this shaking will only intensify in the days ahead. Exactly what it will look like and when it will come, only the Lord knows, but it will come, just as it has already come.

We do not have to be reminded, but the year 2020 is an election year for the US President. Today, Donald Trump is by far the most prominent figure on the political stage. Soon he will be facing an impeachment trial before the Senate that only adds to the shaking of the political establishment—**God has lifted up His hammer over America and is striking at its heart** (i.e., the center of government), for He has judged it as **a cord of falsehood, a twisted cord of lies, deceit, and hypocrisy**. God raised up Trump as a hammer to pound the fortress of this falsehood. But don't be mistaken; Trump is not the savior of America, as some Christians are indicating. He is merely a hammer, one that will no longer be needed once God has fulfilled His purpose through this man. Another way of stating this is that God is revealing the utter brokenness of the American system through this man who is broken himself. Let us be careful where we place our faith or in whom we place it! This leads to my point.

One thing is for sure; by November 5, 2020, one person will be prominent in the news. But here is a question for all believers: **Who is preeminent in your life today?**

The word ***prominent*** means that the object in view (person, thing) has some importance or some influence. Many things in the world can be rightfully viewed this way. Without doubt, whoever wins the presidency of the US will be prominent, not only today but for at least the next four years. Whether or not you agree with the person's politics or worldview will not change the fact that, that person will be prominent in a political system that is cultish.

However, the word ***preeminent*** is much greater, for it means that the object in view is something unique, something special, or something supreme. Admittedly, some men are considered preeminent because they are supreme in some aspect or realm of the kingdom of men, but can any man be described as preeminent in all things, in the heavens and on the earth? Of course, the answer is that there is only one man that fits this description, and He is the second man, the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Consider how Paul described the preeminence of Christ.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. (Colossians 1:15-17 NASB)

The preeminence of our Lord Jesus demands that He be first in all things, that He be central and supreme in all things. After all, He is the creator of all things, both in the heavens and on the earth, visible and invisible. There is absolutely nothing that has existed that has not come from His loving, creative heart. He is the very architect of the universe, through whom the Father created. The world was made through Him (John 1:10). He is the firstborn of this creation, which is something many people try to explain away, but Paul was quite clear that He is not only the creator of all things, but He is the firstborn of all things. Absolutely nothing existed before Him and nothing exists apart from Him. If we could get beyond God's Son, which is impossible to do, we would discover that there is nothing. He is first in rank and supreme in His creation. He is first in death and in life. He is before all things and He holds all things together. If we could see all things of God's creation, we would see Christ in them all. Thus, He is preeminent in all things. The fact of the matter is that He is all.

For us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things, and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him. (1 Corinthians 8:6 NASB)

We exist through God's Son, which means our very existence is dependent on Him. Take Him out of the equation and we have no life. The whole universe would have disintegrated and ceased to exist if the grave could have held Him. He holds all things together and upholds all things by the word of His power (Hebrews 1:3). Simply, King Jesus is the very glue of all that exists, even down to the smallest atom. Why? Because He says, ***I am the Life***. Apart from Him, there is no life. When God breathed life into man, it was His life, God's life.

Those of us who believe on the Lord Jesus and trust Him need to be reminded, in this day in particular, of the preeminence of Christ. He is the head of the *true* church (ecclesia) and, in His place as our head, He is our leader. As the Lord's people, the danger we face in this day of uncertainty is losing sight of our head and allowing the things going on around us and in the world to distract us from the one thing that will bring us through these days, and that one thing is the Lord Jesus Himself. We need to fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith (Hebrews 12:2). We need to exalt Him and give Him the preeminence in every aspect of our lives, and all the more so in this day of evil.

Dear beloved ones in Christ, it is not unusual for some to be very fearful of the days ahead. Perhaps, some fear the uncertainty of what lies ahead, some fear that unrighteousness and evil might rule the day, and some fear persecution and suffering for being a Christian. Some of these things might in fact come upon us. But are we to fear them? Are we to allow these things to rule our lives? Are we to be defeated by these things? I believe Peter gives us the answer to these questions: *But even if ye should suffer for righteousness' sake, blessed are ye: and fear not their fear, neither be troubled; but **sanctify in your hearts Christ as Lord**: being ready always to give answer to every man that asketh you a reason concerning the hope that is in you, yet with meekness and fear: having a good conscience; that, wherein ye are spoken against, they may be put to shame who revile your good manner of life in Christ. For it is better, if the will of God should so will, that ye suffer for well-doing than for evil-doing* (1 Peter 3:14-17 ASV).

Clearly, Peter tells us how to live in this day, and the key is to sanctify in your hearts Christ as Lord or set apart King Jesus as Lord in your hearts. When we do this, we are making Christ preeminent in every aspect of our lives. This is how we will endure to the end and how we will live righteously, even if the days are filled with unrighteousness.

Let it ring in our hearts: ***That in all things He might have the preeminence!***